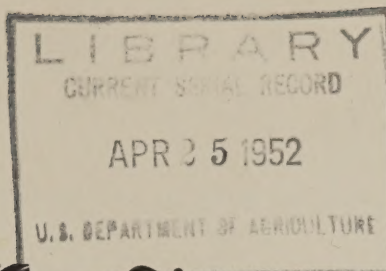


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# Observance of RURAL LIFE SUNDAY

by 4-H Clubs  
1952

*THEME: Serving  
as loyal citizens  
through 4-H*

Extension Service • U. S. Department of Agriculture  
and State Agricultural Colleges Cooperating

## SPIRITUAL VALUES IN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

As our 2 million and more 4-H Club members observe National 4-H Club Sunday by attending the church of their choice, it is well to point out that this is in accordance with American tradition. Educational authorities throughout our great Nation, irrespective of their religious faith, are agreed that young people should be encouraged to develop spiritually and morally. In this development, the church plays a large part, for it has long been recognized in this country as the great source of faith renewal in those intangibles that make for spiritual strength and unity.

In the 4-H Club movement, as more emphasis has been placed on the development of each of the four H's, and particularly on the Heart H, enrollments have increased and programs have become increasingly enriched until now this movement has gained the universal approval of the citizenry of our country. For this citizenry recognizes that 4-H members are pledged to work earnestly to preserve our deeply rooted spiritual heritage--that heritage which has made our Nation great and which is essential for survival in time of crisis.

It is the hope that all 4-H leaders will find rewarding satisfaction in guiding young people to develop for themselves a set of spiritual and moral values in keeping with our American way of life. This is particularly important in these perilous times, not only to the future of 4-H members but to the future welfare of our beloved Nation whose freedoms we cherish as our most prized possessions.

*M. L. Wilson*

Director of Extension Work



United States Department of Agriculture  
Extension Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL 4-H CLUB SUNDAY, 1952

Gertrude L. Warren  
Organization of 4-H Club Work

Theme: Serving as Loyal Citizens Through 4-H  
Emphasis: The Power of Faith  
Date: May 18 or any other Sunday in May

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THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

Reminders to 4-H Club Members in the Observance of 4-H Club Sunday

A NATION'S LIFE

I know three things must always be  
To keep a nation strong and free;  
One is a hearthstone bright and dear,  
With busy, happy loved ones near.  
One is a ready, cordial hand,  
To love and serve and keep the land.  
One is a worn and beaten way,  
To where the people go to pray.  
So long as these are kept alive,  
Nation and people will survive;  
God keep them always, everywhere,  
The Hearth, the Flag, the Place of Prayer.

--Clarence Flynn.

The first act of the Pilgrim Fathers after landing on Plymouth Rock in 1620 was thanksgiving and prayer.

Tablets mark the pews rented and occupied by George Washington in churches in Virginia and New York.

"In God We Trust" is engraved on the coins of this Nation.

The national Congress and the State legislatures open their sessions with prayer.

The official documents of American history ... affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious Nation.

--United States Supreme  
Court decision.

A churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on rapid downgrade.

--Theodore Roosevelt.

The older I grow, the more certain I am that morality is dependent upon the spread of religious conviction in the government and civilization of this country.

--William Howard Taft.

Our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually.

--Woodrow Wilson.

The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions.

--Calvin Coolidge.

Our churches and religious institutions are indispensable stabilizing factors in our civilization.

--Herbert Hoover.

The churches are the greatest influence in this world of ours to overcome the present tendency toward greed.

--Franklin Delano Roosevelt.



Religion is an important element of American life. The United States was founded by a God-fearing people. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights clearly recognize the existence of religious ideals, while guaranteeing to each person freedom to worship God according to the mandate of his own religious convictions. Rejection of a State religion or of State religions is not the same thing as rejection of religion itself. The public schools of the United States, like the Government of the United States, stand firmly for freedom of religious belief.

The development of moral and spiritual values is basic to all other educational objectives. Education uninspired by moral and spiritual values is directionless. Values unapplied in human behavior are empty.

--Educational Policies Commission  
National Education Association  
of the United States and the  
American Association of School  
Administrators.

#### FAITH RELATIVE TO NATIONAL GREATNESS

May all 4-H Club members develop:

Faith in themselves and their destiny;  
Faith in their country and its institutions;  
Faith in their schools and in religion;  
Strength to go forth boldly, to deal justly, to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly; and  
Courage to defend their faiths and their institutions to  
the death.

--Dr. C. B. Smith

In every aspect of education, the need for guidance in terms of moral and spiritual values is clear. No one can predict what problems will be faced in future years by the present generation of youth. To be sure, educational policy endeavors to foresee future needs, as well as to meet current needs. Nevertheless, the future remains uncertain. Education in moral and spiritual values, however, can furnish a yardstick against which any future problem may be measured.



In civic education, for example, the precise issues that may require decision cannot be anticipated. Still, a sure grasp of the relevant values of American society and a deep loyalty to these values will be needed, whatever the future may bring. Citizenship in terms of knowledge of government machinery is useful, but inadequate. Citizenship in terms of knowledge of current trends and issues is useful, but inadequate. But citizenship, in terms of intelligent loyalty to moral and spiritual values, as they apply to political processes and civic issues, increases the value of many other learnings. And what is true of civic education applies also to education in the personal, social, and economic aspects of life.

--Educational Policies Commission  
National Education Association  
of the United States and the  
American Association of School  
Administrators.

If people have faith that God is working in His world, faith that our human struggle has eternal meaning and the soul of men intrinsic worth, faith that beyond this trouble of breath there is ampler life, men can truly live. They can live together then, for then they are one in worthiest manhood; and they can live with God.

--Dr. George A. Buttrick.

On all sides we are hearing that America must be strong. Reference is to more and better guns, tanks, fighter planes, and of course, to a mounting stockpile of atomic bombs. This led a Senator to remind his colleagues recently that while an emergency might require a sword of steel, there was never a time when reliance should not be placed upon the sword of the Spirit.

National security requires the maintenance of a spiritual arsenal. One of its weapons is prayer. From the pages of American history one can hear the earliest arrivals from the Old World at prayer. A stretched sail formed a sanctuary for the first Virginians down on the James River. Up in New England a rock served as an altar for the Pilgrims. Later Lord Baltimore's colonists knelt before a giant cross raised on the Maryland shore of the Potomac River down at St. Marys. Likewise, the Dutch along the Hudson River, the Swedes in Delaware, and the Quakers in Pennsylvania consecrated America to God on first going ashore.

Whenever in all the long story of migration and colonization have pioneers of more colossal religious faith appeared than came to America in those little ships? They were praying people. They thanked God for a safe voyage; they sought his guidance as they faced perils in their new wilderness home.



Yes, America must be kept strong, but this will be impossible if prayer which has helped to make her strong is neglected. Along every wilderness trail, the faithful offered supplications beside their camp fires. In the cabins of the frontiersmen; in the sodhouses of the homesteaders, and in all other remote and lonely outposts of forest and prairie, parents asked the help of the Lord in directing their children into paths of sobriety, industry, and usefulness. The result was that generation after generation came to be described as constituting the solid, God-fearing citizenry. These families were the glory of their day. They made home life wholesome and communities law-abiding. In a true sense they prayed America into greatness.

--Dr. Jacob Simpson Payton.

#### OUR AMERICAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The atomic bomb destroyed selfish nationalism and the last defense of isolationism more completely than it razed an enemy city. It ended one age and began another; the new and unpredictable age of the soul. There must be fulfilled in that age, if man is to survive, the prophecy of the Acts of the Apostles: "God That made the world and all things therein \*\*\* hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth." To this unity of world peoples our American religious freedom has a vital contribution to make.

--President Harry S. Truman.

#### ORIGIN OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

4-H Club Sunday, or Rural Life Sunday, is observed by church organizations throughout the Nation to emphasize the meaning of Christianity in rural life. It occurs the fifth Sunday after Easter and is closely linked with Rogation Days, celebrated for centuries in the Christian Church during the 3 days preceding Ascension Day. Originally, they had several emphases, but gradually that of prayer for God's blessing upon the fruits of the earth predominated. Rogation Days were first observed by St. Mamertus, Bishop of Vienne, in Gaul, sometime prior to A.D. 475. In A.D. 511 they were ordered observed throughout France; and in A.D. 747 were established in England by church action. Alfred the Great held them in deep reverence and included them among the most important of holy days. They were established in Rome by Leo III about the end of the eighth century.



The idea is of far more ancient origin, however. In the earliest days of Egypt, the ceremony of blessing the land and the seed at the time of planting was widely observed. Hardly an ancient people but sought the favor of the gods at that time.

When therefore, 4-H members assemble to worship God on 4-H Club Sunday, they join a long succession which comes out of the dim past of history. They join with those of many generations in seeking the blessing of God upon the land, the seed, the cultivation of the earth, and the enrichment of home and community life.

It should be noted also that 4-H Club Sunday is an outgrowth of Rural Life Sunday, which was first observed in 1929 at the suggestion of the International Association of Agricultural Missions, and soon adopted by the Home Missions Council of North America, by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and by numerous other religious bodies.

#### PARTICIPATION OF 4-H CLUBS IN THE OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

##### WHAT IT DOES

Enables 4-H members to think together about home, community, and world events in spiritual terms by means of some especially chosen theme such as "Working Together for a Better World."

Emphasizes and recognizes the spiritual values and character-building qualities of 4-H Club work.

Encourages 4-H members to identify themselves with those institutions that stand for the high ideals of a community, such as the church, the school, and other social organizations that lead to the full, all-round development of all those who participate.

Develops in 4-H members a better understanding of the inevitable relationship that people of the soil have with God.

Develops a deeper appreciation of the manifold values of rural life.

Provides 4-H members an opportunity to participate in a service that develops the Heart H.

Acquaints 4-H members with other character-building agencies.

Gives 4-H members an opportunity to cooperate with other community groups.



Helps 4-H members to demonstrate their loyalty and to realize their own responsibilities to the church of their choice.

Enables 4-H members to associate church activities with their every day living.

### ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

In the observance of 4-H Club Sunday, 4-H members are always encouraged to attend the church of their own choice. At that time, in keeping with the Heart H, their attention can well be directed to the development of their own spiritual lives, and thus they can be helped "to stand firm under the pressures of life" (Children's Charter). Today, more than ever before, people of all lands are in need of that spiritual development which will enable them, if put to the test, to meet triumphantly the threatening crises that seem to overhang the world.

### SUGGESTIVE WAYS OF PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH SERVICES BY 4-H CLUB MEMBERS

#### MAKE CAREFUL PLANS

Each county will determine how 4-H Club Sunday will be observed. This usually is done by the county 4-H Club council, by a special committee of leaders and sponsors, or by a county extension agent.

Those in charge will get in touch as soon as possible with ministerial associations, other ministers, priests, and Sunday school superintendents and make arrangements, satisfactory to all, for conducting the services. This should be done well in advance of the Sunday selected for the observance of this special day.

The following suggestive procedures are listed for consideration:

Plan county-wide observance of 4-H Club Sunday, if possible. Select a Sunday in May or June when there is the least conflict with events.

Make careful plans to suit local conditions.

Explain fully the meaning of 4-H Club Sunday and plans for the day to all local ministers, priests, or other church authorities well in advance and try to adjust plans to their convenience.



Furnish information about 4-H Club work to ministers for inclusion in the sermon. Give them a copy of this manual.

Highlight what 4-H Clubs are doing in improving their own communities and in sharing with the destitute people of other lands.

Encourage 4-H members of each church of the community to discuss plans for 4-H participation in the observance of 4-H Club Sunday with the minister or priest of the church of their choice.

Make arrangements for a combined service in a central church or hall, provided all churches of the community are in the habit of combining for special services.

Enlist the help of 4-H members in decorating the church with plants and flowers.

Have a 4-H Club Committee, perhaps in uniform if it seems appropriate, to welcome people at the door of the church, if approved by church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to assist in ushering or in taking up the morning offering, if it meets with the approval of church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to invite parents, neighbors, and friends to attend.

If there is only one church in the community and church authorities approve, suggest to 4-H members that they might attend church as a group and wear membership pins, uniforms or some special emblem made for the occasion.

As a part of a program, certain features that highlight the theme for the year may be dramatized.



## OTHER WAYS OF 4-H PARTICIPATION

Other ways of 4-H participation may include singing in the choir; giving talks; reading poems, creeds, pledges, prayers, and scriptures; or contributing special musical numbers.

Forms of observance may include a 4-H sunrise or 4-H sunset service in some scenic setting; a 10- to 15-minute church period given over to the 4-H community club for special contributions of members; a similar period during the Sunday school hour; or a special service featuring the plow in keeping with the ancient English ceremony. On such occasions, appropriate hymns may be used -- hymns that are great and have done much to develop the spiritual ideals and stamina of this Nation. Young people might well be encouraged to become familiar with such hymns and to appreciate their worth and significance.

Encourage 4-H members to do something special to improve the home community or to help those in need. A special contribution to needy people in other parts of the world would be most appropriate.

## GREAT MEN AND THEIR FAITH IN GOD

The greatest discoveries will be made along spiritual lines \*\*\* When that day comes, the world will see more advancement in one generation than it has seen in the last four.

--Dr. Charles Steinmetz

The roster of those who believe in prayer contain so many eminent names that the wonder is that the benefits of prayer should be doubted. These are not confined to cloistered saints of long ago, although they offer an inspiring testimonial.

Michael Faraday, famed chemist, communed with God not only while busy with his experiments, but regularly at a midweek prayer service in a humble London chapel. John Tyndall, a scientist who hesitated to accept what he could not prove, acknowledged that prayer in its purer forms hints at disciplines which few of us can neglect without moral loss. Alexis Carrel, physician preeminent, acknowledged personally his dependence upon "that steady flow of sustaining power" from prayer which he had observed in his patients. These are only a few among many scientists who have borne faithful witness to the efficacy of prayer.

--Dr. Jacob Simpson Payton.



Great men in all ages have turned to God for help; prayer brings harmony to the life of the humble. Even the old hostility of science is beginning to be tempered by a respect for the incomprehensible mysteries of faith. Only a few months ago, Dr. Robert A. Millikan, 82-year-old Nobel Prize winner, and head of the California Institute of Technology, told the country's leading physicists that a lifetime of scientific research has convinced him that there is a Divinity that is shaping the destiny of man. No scientist has delved more deeply into the mechanisms of matter than Millikan. It was he who first determined the charge and mass of the electron, the smallest particle in the universe. In his recent speech he said:

"Just how we fit into the plans of the Great Architect and how much He has assigned us to do we do not know, but if we fail in our assignment it is pretty certain that part of the job will be left undone. But fit in we certainly do somehow, else we would not have a sense of our own responsibility. A purely materialistic philosophy is to me the height of unintelligence."

--Fulton Oursler.

A world that has science needs as never before the inspiration and direction that prayerful religion has to offer. Beyond the nature taught by science is the spirit that gives meaning to life.

--Arthur H. Compton  
Chancellor, Washington  
University.

Must a scientist doubt the reality of miracles? As a scientist I answer emphatically: No, I can see no reason at all why Almighty God, Who created us and all things around us, should not suspend or change--if he finds it wise to do so--the natural, average course of events.

In regard to the deepest issues of mankind scientists, like many others, are groping in the dark. Nevertheless a good religious education, combined with scientific training, tends to give a scientist a better understanding both of nature and of human life.

--Victor Francis Hess  
Professor of Physics,  
Fordham University  
Nobel Prize Winner.



## ABIDING FAITH

Somewhere in this universe is a timeless undeniable force. It is stronger than granite, steel, majestic mountains towering into the sky--or nuclear fission. Sooner or later--in strange and different manifestations--that force touches every human being. Sure, some pass it off as a phenomenon that somehow cannot be reduced to exact scientific formula. To others it is the hand of the Almighty--a reminder that regardless of the grandeur of man and his accomplishments--God is still "running the show" here on earth.

--Arthur Godfrey.

Never before as now, do we need, in this country and elsewhere, men and women of unflinching honesty - men and women who will put principles above personal gain. For this great task, involving the highest type of honor and moral stamina, it is important that you, as our future leaders, have a staunch faith in and an adherence to these Christian beliefs and principles. For no one knows when you, as a leader, may be struggling with some seemingly insurmountable problem here at home; or perhaps on the cold, windswept, rugged hills of Korea, or in some other far-distant outpost.

Therefore, we trust that you may increasingly develop those abiding Christian beliefs that have made us a great nation - a nation which seeks for others the blessings which we enjoy here - yes, those abiding beliefs that may, in turn, strengthen your own faith in your own selves and in the future, and for the time when, perhaps all alone, you may need such faith most.

In brief, we trust that you may develop:

First of all, faith in the Miracles of Prayer in our present adventurous age, as demonstrated so dramatically a few years ago by Eddie Rickenbacker, afloat in a rubber boat on the turbulent waters of the Pacific, as well as by thousands of others, especially during the recent war periods.

Second, adherence to those ideals that inspire, guide and act as a safeguard just as the stars, through the ages, lighted the course of the mariner on the boundless seas.

And third, based on the truth that every great achievement was once only an idea, an ever-growing faith, with God's help, in your own resources and ultimate possibilities, perhaps far beyond your present ability to envisage in this new atomic world.

In closing, let me repeat - that it is adherence to these Christian beliefs and spiritual ideals that has made this nation great and that will make each of you great along the lines that really count.

--Gertrude L. Warren.



### MIRACLES OF FAITH

You find beautiful prayers in the Bible, in prayer books. And you find prayers such as are reported with the immediate results in that book called "We Thought We Heard the Angels Sing" about Eddie Rickenbacker and the appalling adventures of his comrades when their plane went down in mid-Pacific. They floated about in inadequate rubber life boats, starving and burning with thirst after days of this crisis, one member, seeing a rain cloud raining, pouring down fresh water, but going away from their position, started praying like this; "God, that's Your cloud.....we need the rain..it's blowing away from us..but it is Your cloud and if you want you can make that cloud turn around and come this way..."

AND THE MIRACLE IS THAT THE CLOUD STARTED COMING TOWARD THEM AGAINST THE WIND. And try this, "I put myself and all my affairs into the loving hands of the Father, with child-life Faith - that which is to my best good will come to me" ...

--Earl Godwin

### MIRACLE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

"The situation looked so hopeless that even if the wind did die down to a calm, the waves and surf would not abate for a day or so. At that moment, thousands of men prayed for the miracle which was the only thing that could save them. Two hours later, the surface of the Mediterranean was as smooth as our Potomac Basin. The miracle had happened."

Commander Curtis, in telling the story of this perilous voyage expressed his belief that men overseas have been drawn much closer to a belief in religious matters than the people at home; and that it is not surprising to find one's sense of what one wants and of values in life completely changed after an experience such as the one he described.

Hold prayer in high esteem. It is the foundation of all the virtues, and the source of all grace needed to sanctify ourselves and to discharge the duties of our employment.

--Adapted from St. John  
Baptist De LaSalle.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE AGREED ON CERTAIN VALUES

Human Personality--The Basic Value  
Moral Responsibility  
Institutions as the Servants of Men  
Common Consent  
Devotion to Truth  
Respect for Excellence  
Moral Equality  
Brotherhood  
The Pursuit of Happiness  
Spiritual Enrichment

--Educational Policies Commission  
National Education Association of  
the United States and the  
American Association of School  
Administrators.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION

In the further spiritual development of the nation we may well begin with rural people who work close with God in the growing of plants and animals; who hear His voice in the winds, the storm, the song of birds, the rustling of growing corn, the silence of the night; and see Him in the beauty of morning and evening sun, the wild rose, the spider's web.

Rural youth who want to build real homes, raise up godly children, and help build a righteous nation may well be the right hand of the church in carrying forward this spiritual work.

--C. B. Smith.



ABOVE ALL - FREEDOM

On 4-H Club Sunday, the National 4-H Slogan "Above all - freedom," should have special appeal. At that time, our defense mobilization pledge will be most timely:

As a 4-H Club member and an alert citizen of our great Nation, I will earnestly work to preserve our deep rooted spiritual heritage, our time-proved democratic government for free men, and our vast wealth in manifold human and natural resources.

INSTRUMENTS OF THY PEACE

Lord, make us instruments of Thy peace! Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

--St. Francis of Assisi(1182-1226).











